

# Minutes of Parish Council meeting on 9th January 2019

Meeting in the Garrett Room, Memorial Hall, on 9th January at 7.30

Attendees: Parish Councillors Malcolm Halliday, Shannon Craig, Annette Williamson, Danny Rowe, Ted Gittins and Rosemary Silver.

County Councillor Mary Evans, Borough Councillor Peter Stevens, 2 Parishioners and Chris Turner - Clerk.

Cllr Halliday welcomed those present and took the opportunity to offer our condolences to the family of the late Geoffrey Jackson, a former chairman of the Parish Council, who passed away recently.

**Open Forum** - A question was asked whether there was to be a cost of emptying our dog bins by the Borough Council. This has not been clarified as yet, if a charge is levied it will be absorbed in our expenses and a decision would need to be made as to the future. Also asked about food waste bins, this is not appropriate at the current time. Four drains in Melford Road are blocked and need reporting to Highways (SCC). Some of the drains appear to have collapsed. There are numerous potholes in Water Lane from the "chicken huts" down to the first house on the right. Clerk to report all.

**BC Peter Stevens report** - There have been "harmonising" meetings between councillors who will be forming the new West Suffolk Council, with joint cabinet and council meetings. The Council are balancing their budget, and this is partly because they have identified new income streams which are being propelled by 'In-House' initiatives. Peter was pleased to have attended a recent meeting in the village discussing speeding issues and is willing to donate £500 from his locality budget towards the cost of the speed sign, he will need an e mail with information. He mentioned the new HGV restrictions but was disappointed that the County Council had no budget and it would need to be paid for from Parish Council funds (see below).

## Meeting closed for Parish Meeting.

**1 - Minutes of last meeting-** These were approved as a true record and duly signed by Cllr. Halliday

**2 - Clerks Report** - The clerk gave details of action taken since our previous meeting. The drains outside the entrance to 'Jacksons' have been inspected by Highways, in attendance was Mary Evans, Cllrs Halliday and Craig together with the clerk. Hopefully there will be something to report shortly. The broken grit bins in The Columbines and corner of Greys Close have been repaired by David Kirkman. Trees on the Green have been uplifted where appropriate for H&S purposes. There are likely to be one or two vacant allotments available although one has recently been re-let. Unable to write to house-holders in Peacocks Road regarding parking on the greensward as this is not our land but St.Eds BC. We are to request they contact residents or put up some kind of barrier.

**3 - Finance** - Accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> December accepted to be in order and were duly signed by the Chair. The Finance Committee minutes for their November meeting had been circulated, this included notes on the proposed Precept request for 2019/20. The minutes did require a small amendment and clarification with Para 4 stating that 'Part of' our income is derived from etc. The precept request was discussed, and all Councillors were in agreement. The request is for £36100, with £12000 coming from monies not yet spent but received, leaving £24100. There will be an increase in Band D Council Tax from £54.33 per annum to £57. 40, a rise of £3.07 for the year or 5.65%. The main part of the rise is to cover the potential election costs due in

May of £1000.

**4 - Report by Chair, Cllr. Halliday** - He started off by commenting that the latest form we have had to complete for rate relief, did not mention that a Hall Committee was now needed to obtain this rebate, clerk to check. Work has recommenced on the Memorial Hall with scaffolding erected. The builders have found a problem with rotting timbers etc which will need additional work pushing up costs. Both Cllrs Halliday and Craig had a site meeting earlier in the week to discuss problems etc. We have received a further quote from Marjorams the builder for work on the pre-school part of the hall for £2433.18 net, all happy with quote and we are to advise the builder to go ahead. This cannot take place before the Easter holidays. It was suggested that we ask the Pamela Matthews Trustees whether they would be willing to help financially with the hall repairs as this will cost in excess of £25000. Cllr Halliday has received a quote for internal redecoration of the hall, cost £3000+, two further quotes to be obtained. Letter received from Mary Evans re HGV restriction Cllr Halliday to be our “lead” in this proposal.

Meeting then closed in order for Mary Evans to report and any questions to be put to her by parishioners or councillors; The letter she had sent to us, regarding the possibility of restricting HGVs using the main road if their journey did not stop or start in the area between Baythorne End and Long Melford was expanded upon. This would be an expensive lengthy business and would affect the 4 villages on the route; Stoke by Clare, Clare, Cavendish and Long Melford. Meetings are to be held to discuss the possibility and costs and as above Cllr Halliday will represent ourselves. A meeting will be taking place this February like last years with police representatives to discuss policing issues within the community. Mary had attended the meeting for Speedwatch etc. and was willing to commit funds for a fixed sign. A point on potholes was put to Mary who asked for any problems to be reported on-line.

#### **Parish Council Meeting re-opened.**

**5 - Reports by Councillors** - Cllr Silver reported that the handrail on the footpath leading from Water Lane had not been repaired or reinstated. This had been reported again by both Cllr Gittins and the clerk, with the Councillor receiving confirmation that it was in hand. Despite two people falling, luckily not into the road, this had not been dealt with urgently. The clerk had pointed out to the officer he spoke to that it was dangerous and SCC were responsible. Cllr Craig mentioned the Memorial Hall drain was blocked again and had been rodded to unblock. He will remind the CCTV company about coming to put a camera down the drain. The keysafe on the Hall has been fitted, a new brighter light is to be installed to make it easier to use.

**6 - Planning issues** - As discussed at our previous meeting the Councils Planning policy has been re-written. This was circulated and accepted by all and can now go on the village web-site. We have two planning applications one on land adjacent to Ducks Hall, which was discussed by the Council under guidance from Ted Gittins. All were in agreement that we should lodge an objection, there were 3 other objections by residents. The other related to a tree which we were happy to agree to.

**7 - Speed Indicator Signs** - A meeting had taken place between 3 members of the Speedwatch team, 2 Parish Councillors, Mary Evans (CC) and Peter Stevens (BC), also in attendance, the clerk. The meeting had been called to discuss what we wanted to do now that the sign at the Melford end of the village had been removed. One pole with electricity had been left in situ. The Councils preference and the one the Speedwatch team also preferred is a new sign with the speed of the vehicle showing but also a camera sign to indicate they could be in force. The cost

net of VAT is £3150, we are to receive funding from both Councillors, £1000 has been included in the precept request and hopefully more funding can be obtained from the Community Council. It still leaves us with a small shortfall but hopefully this can be covered. This will mean that the village has signs at both ends which will be static, one old and one new, two speed guns and one movable sign. All Councillors in agreement to go ahead with the purchase of the new machine.

**8 - Correspondence/AOB** - Letter received from Community Council requesting to use the green for the fete at the end of August, including security arrangements, and bonfire night. The PC were happy to give permission. Request for a lamp-post in Water Lane to be referred to Highways.

Meeting finished at 9.10

Next meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> March.

C R Turner-Clerk

Payments in period, authorised by Parish Council

14/11/18	Marjoram re hall repair	700	355.50
ditto	D Kirkman Inv 2/3	701	221.44
ditto	ABLE Group re Hall locks	702	296.40
15/11/18	Waste Memorial Hall	d/d	45.24
ditto	Waste Allotments	d/d	22.62
20/11/18	C Turner Pay/Exps	703	447.13
ditto	Hall chairs feet inserts	704	18.96
28/11/18	Chubb re Hall	d/d	16.92
02/12/18	Haven Electric re Hall	d/d	123.26
07/12/18	Glasdon re waste bags	705	150.16
ditto	Amazon re mop and bucket	706	28.49
ditto	J Murcott re hall cleaning	707	90.00
ditto	D Kirkman Inv 4/5	708	221.44
13/12/18	D Kirkman Inv 6/7	709	221.44
ditto	Wave re Water Allotments	710	118.92
15/12/18	Waste Memorial Hall	d/d	45.24
ditto	Waste Allotments	d/d	22.62
28/12/18	Chubb re Hall	d/d	16.92
ditto	Haven Electric re Hall	d/d	217.29